EQUISETUM.

Lin. Gen. Plan. 1169.

EQUISETUM ſylvaticum.

Lin. Sp. Pl. 1516. *Flo. Ang.* 447. *Scot.* 664. *Cant.* 383. *Ray Syn.* 131. *Ger. Em.* 1114. *Park.* 1201.

TAB. XXXIII.

WOOD HORSETAIL.

FROM a brown, jointed, fibrous, tough, creeping root, the fertile ſhoots begin to appear about the end of March, or beginning of April. Theſe ſhoots at their firſt appearance are of a dark ruſty-brown colour on the outſide, which is compoſed of ſeveral vaginæ, of a thin filmy ſubſtance, and lie over one another in an imbricated order; each ſeparate vagina is divided in three or four dents at the rim, and marked with about twelve ſtriæ at the baſe, as at b. From the uppermoſt of theſe vaginæ the flower ſpike appears; it is of an oval or oblong figure, conſiſts of numerous hexangular ſhields, cloſe thruſt together, their upper or naked part of a pale brown colour, and a ſmooth ſurface. As it advances in growth, theſe ſhields ſeparate, and the ſeminal valves under each ſhield are librated, and diſcharge the ſeeds in form of a ſoft, downy, bluiſh powder. By this time the ſtem has attained the height of eight or ten inches; it is of a ſmooth ſurface, and a pale-green colour. The ſecond leaves make their firſt appearance like little teeth, in a circle, round the baſe of the uppermoſt vagina, as expreſſed in the Plate at a; where I have ſhewn them at the baſe of the third vagina. When this firſt circle has made ſome progreſs in growth, another circle begins to appear in like manner, at the baſe of the ſecond vagina, and thus proceeds downwards, as is expreſſed in the ſhoot a, *Tab.* 34.

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